

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying search results using a computer, said method comprising the steps of:

assigning a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier to each data file stored within a plurality of databases, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

storing the data files within [[a]] the plurality of databases wherein each data file includes [[a]] the business community identifier and [[a]] the sub-business community identifier assigned thereto, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

inputting into the computer user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user;

assigning the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data;

assigning the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community into the computer;

prompting the user to enter search terms into the computer for performing a search for information;

displaying on the computer search results from the plurality of databases, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored

data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith; and

displaying a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the computer, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a first subset of the search results based on the business community assigned to the user, a second subset of the search results that is included in the first subset and based on the sub-business community assigned to the user, and a third subset of the search results that is included in the second subset and based on the at least one customized business community assigned to the user, each of the subsets also based on the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the search zoom tool includes a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a type of search result on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein displaying a subset of the search results further comprises:

displaying the first subset of the search results when the user selects a business community type on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the business community assigned to the user;

displaying the second subset of the search results when the user selects a sub-business community type on the selection bar including each search result having a sub-business community identifier that corresponds with the sub-business community assigned to the user;
and

displaying the third subset of the search results when the user selects a customized business community type on the selection bar including each search result having a business

community identifier that corresponds with the customized business community assigned to the user.

3. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein each search result is previously assigned to a geographic location, and wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection further comprises displaying a subset of the search results based on a user selection relating to the geographic location of the user.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein displaying on the computer search results further comprises enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, wherein a first type of search result that can be displayed comprises a complete set of the search results, and wherein a second type of search result comprises a subset of the complete search results.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 4 wherein enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed further comprises enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, the second type of search result is based on a first vector wherein the first vector includes a business community assigned to the user.

6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 5 wherein enabling a user to select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed further comprises enabling a user to select a third type and a fourth type of search results, the third type of search result based on a second vector and the fourth type of search result based on a third vector, the second vector includes a sub-business community assigned to the user and the third vector includes a customized business community assigned to the user.

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 5 wherein displaying a subset of the search results based on a selection by the user further comprises displaying a subset of the search results based on a selection by the user including by at least one of an engineering business community, a power systems sub-business community, and aircraft industry sub-business community.

8. (currently amended) A computer comprising a user interface and a processor, said processor programmed to:

assign a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier to each data file stored within at least one database, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

store the data files within the at least one database wherein each data file includes ~~[[a]] the business community identifier and [[a]] the sub-business community identifier assigned thereto, the at least one database is coupled to the computer, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;~~

receive user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user;

assign the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data;

assign the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community the user desires to be assigned to;

prompt the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information;

display on said user interface search results from the at least one database, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith; and

display on said user interface a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the user interface, the search zoom tool enables the

user to display a first subset of the search result based on the business community assigned to the user, a second subset of the search results that is included in the first subset and based on the sub-business community assigned to the user, and a third subset of the search results that is included in the second subset and based on the at least one customized business community assigned to the user, each of the subsets also based on the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

9. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said computer is configured to be coupled to a network, and wherein the at least one database corresponding to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community is in the network.

10. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein the search zoom tool includes a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a type of search result on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein said processor is further configured to:

display on the user interface the first subset of the search results when the user selects a business community type on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the business community assigned to the user;

display on the user interface second subset of the search results when the user selects a sub-business community type on the selection bar including each search result having a sub-business community identifier that corresponds with the sub-business community assigned to the user; and

display on the user interface third subset of the search results when the user selects a customized business community type on the selection bar including each search result having a business community identifier that corresponds with the customized business community assigned to the user.

11. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said processor is further programmed to:

prompt the user to select a customized business community;

display on said user interface a user interactive selection bar including a business community result type on the selection bar, a sub-business community result type on the selection bar, and a customized business community result type on the selection bar; and

display on said user interface a subset of the search results based on the result type selected by the user on the interactive selection bar, the displayed subset of search results corresponding to the result type selected by the user and the community wherein each search result has been assigned.

12. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 11 wherein said interactive selection bar further includes a type of search result on the interactive selection bar for displaying a subset of search results relating to a geographic location of the user.

13. (original) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said user selection comprises one of a plurality of communities in which the user is a member.

14. (original) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said user interface is configured so that a user can select one of a plurality of types of search results to be displayed, and wherein a first type of search result that can be displayed comprises a complete set of the search results, and wherein a second type of search result comprises a subset of the complete search results.

15. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 14 wherein said second type of search result is based on a first vector wherein the first vector includes a business community assigned to the user.

16. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 15 wherein a user can select a third type and a fourth type of search results, said third type of search result based on a second vector and said fourth type of search result based on a third vector, the second

vector includes the sub-business community assigned to the user and the third vector includes a customized business community selected by the user.

17. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 8 wherein said business community includes an engineering community, and said sub-business community includes at least one of a power systems community, and an aircraft industry community.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for displaying search results on a user interface coupled to a computer, said program comprising a code segment that receives user data including at least one of an organization associated with a user, a function associated with the user, and a geographic location of the user and then:

assigns a business community identifier and a sub-business community identifier to each data file stored within at least one database, each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;

stores the data files within the at least one database wherein each data file includes [[a]] the business community identifier and [[a]] the sub-business community identifier assigned thereto, ~~each business community identifier represents a business community the corresponding data file is assigned to, and each sub-business community identifier represents a sub-business community the corresponding data file is assigned to;~~

assigns the user to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community based on the user data;

assigns the user to at least one customized business community by enabling the user to input the at least one customized business community that the user desires to be assigned to;

prompts the user to enter search terms for performing a search for information;

displays on the user interface search results from the at least one database, each search result satisfies the entered search terms, each search result includes at least one of the stored data files and the business community identifier and the sub-business community identifier associated therewith; and

displays on the user interface a subset of the search results as a result of the user selecting a search zoom tool displayed on the computer, the search zoom tool enables the user to display a first subset of the search results based on the business community assigned to the user, a second subset of the search results that is included in the first subset and based on the sub-business community assigned to the user, and a third subset of the search results that is included in the second subset and based on the at least one customized business community assigned to the user, each of the subsets also based on the business community identifier and sub-business community identifier included within each search result, the displayed subset of search results includes each search result from the performed search having been previously assigned to the corresponding user selection.

22. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a code segment that:

prompts the user to select a customized business community;

displays on the user interface the search zoom tool including a user interactive selection bar that enables the user to display a subset of the search results by selecting a type of search result on the selection bar that corresponds with the subset of the search results to be displayed, and wherein the selection bar includes a business community type on the selection bar, a sub-business community type on the selection bar, and a customized business community type on the selection bar; and

displays on the user interface a subset of the search results based on the type of search result selected by the user on the selection bar, the displayed subset of search results corresponding to the type selected by the user on the selection bar and the community wherein each search result has been assigned.

23. (previously presented) A computer program in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising a code segment wherein the at least one business community includes an engineering community, and the at least one sub-business community includes at least one of a power systems community, and an aircraft industry community.

24. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

storing information in the at least one database corresponding to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community including a plurality of documents relating to a plurality of subject matters; and

assigning each document stored in the database to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community.

25. (previously presented) A computer in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said processor is further programmed to:

store information in the at least one database corresponding to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community including a plurality of documents relating to a plurality of subject matters; and

assign each document stored in the database to at least one business community and at least one sub-business community.